

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



November 1994

Volume 8, Number 2

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

New Funds for Learner Events

Literacy learner groups in B.C. are invited to apply to take part in "Learners Talking to Learners," a 1994/95 B.C. literacy cost-shared project.

The seventh annual series of learner events will provide an opportunity for groups to plan and host events specific to their region. According to Project Coordinator Joyce Cameron, "Learner Events can be workshops, plays, conferences, open houses, or many other things. In the past, learners have used the events to do things like make videos, hold meetings, build floats, give puppet shows, or go on field trips."

Cameron says also, the events give learners an opportunity to "...talk about issues they think are important and experiences that they have in common. Learner Events can also be used to let other people know about the problems that many adults have with reading and writing and...the programs that can help them."

The guidelines for the events include:

- ❖ at least half of the planning committee for an event must be learners
- ❖ the final report must be written by a learner or group of learners

❖ events must take place by May 31, 1995

❖ applications must be mailed by December 16, 1994.

Proposals will be assessed by the Provincial Learner Events Advisory Committee, composed of six learners and six practitioners. This year the Committee is chaired by Mary-Jayne Taylor, a student at Malaspina University College in Nanaimo.

Application packages were distributed to the literacy field during October 1994.

For information, or to obtain an application package, contact:

Joyce Cameron, Project Coordinator
Learners Talking to Learners
c/o 707 - 12th Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 4J7

Phone: 439-7714 ☐

**See page 6 for information on
the 1993/94 Learner Events**

UVIC Student Wins Leadership Award

A University of Victoria student is the first recipient of a leadership award in literacy by Frontier College.

Suzanne Doyle was awarded the Mary Isabel Mackey Award at the Frontier College Students for Literacy national conference in September 1994. Beginning this year, the award is to be given annually to a Frontier College Student for Literacy who shows "commitment and dedication to community service, literacy and education."

Doyle is the founder and program coordinator of the Frontier College Students for Literacy program at the University of Victoria. Students for Literacy, a national initiative of Frontier College since 1992, assists college and university students in organizing student-run literacy programs in their communities.

Frontier College is a national, non-profit, volunteer-based literacy organization. The College has been assisting people to improve their reading and writing skills since 1899.

Doyle was given the award because "she is the kind of

volunteer who has shown that she knows what is needed to work effectively in the field: she will stop at nothing but will listen and be patient enough to know when it is time to act...Her limitless good humour and selflessness have made her a true leader."

The University of Victoria Students for Literacy program provides adults in Victoria with one-to-one tutoring. The students also tutor homeless people at the Open Door drop-in centre of the Inner City Ministry in Victoria, and inmates at William Head Institution, a medium security federal correctional institution. □

Learner-produced Literacy Series on Cable TV

Literacy and adult basic education in the Fraser Valley are the subjects of a six-part series of television programs created by learners and aired by a Chilliwack cable television station.

The series, called, "Focus on Literacy: Past, Present and Future," will air on TV10 - Chilliwack Cablenet in January 1995. The series was previously broadcast twice during the summer.

"Focus on Literacy" was developed as a learner event, part of the 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared project, "Learners Talking to Learners."

The agencies which took part in developing the series are: Chilliwack Branch, Fraser Valley Regional Library; Chilliwack Community Services; Fraser Valley East Literacy Association (FVELA); TV10 - Chilliwack Cablenet, and the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV).

In the series, learners are involved in interviews, round table discussions, hosting, and writing scripts, with the production assistance of staff and volunteers from Cable 10.

The series focusses on adult learner and family literacy programs in the communities of Agassiz, Hope and Chilliwack.

The purpose of the programs is to: provide adult learners with the opportunity to reach out to potential learners; encourage potential learners to come forward; and show the community how it can become personally involved in supporting adult learners, their families and their education.

For further information, contact:

Jim Hall, President
Fraser Valley East Literacy Association
Box 52
Sardis, B.C.
V2R 1A5
Phone: 792-2959 □

Attention: ABEABC Members

Teach your hobby and help the ABEABC

The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. (ABEABC) is seeking help from its members in raising funds for the organization.

ABEABC members with a special talent in arts and crafts, cooking, or other areas of general interest, are being sought as volunteers to design and teach a course in a one day or evening workshop.

The courses will be used to raise funds through enrollment fees. The money raised will sponsor ABEABC projects and assist in the production of *Groundwork*, the ABEABC's professional journal.

For further information, contact your regional representative or:

Loraine Wong, Chair
Fundraising Committee
ABEABC Board of Directors
Phone: 534-7155 (work)
or 530-3987 (home)
Fax: 534-9332

Long-distance savings

ABEABC members can help raise funds for the organization, and save money on their own long-distance phone calls, by purchasing a long-distance savings plan through GLENTEL Inc.

THANK YOU, LAWYERS OF B.C.!

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of the Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch. The CBA-B.C. held its First Annual Charity Golf Tournament on behalf of the ALCC on September 21, 1994 at the Northview Golf and Country Club in Cloverdale. The tournament raised over \$2,500 for the ALCC.

The ABEABC will receive five percent of the monthly long-distance charges of every member who purchases the plan. Members will receive a 25% discount on long-distance charges.

For further information, contact Loraine Wong as above.

Board positions open

The ABEABC is seeking candidates to fill three vacant positions on its Board of Directors:

- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ *Groundwork* Chair

All the positions carry two-year terms.

For further information, contact Loraine Wong as above, or:

Jim Bray, President
ABEABC
Phone: 828-5284 (work)
or 374-7064 (home)
Fax: 371-5514 ☐

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Fax

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published bi-monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



Cost-shared funding news

The Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour and the National Literacy Secretariat invite applications for 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared project funding.

Application packages for 1995/96 are being distributed this month. The deadline for applications will be February 24, 1995.

Copies of the application package are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

For further information and help in applying to the cost-shared fund, contact:

Patty Bossort, Adult Literacy Consultant
Box 117
Silverton, B.C.
V0G 2B0
Phone: (604) 358-2745
Fax: (604) 358-2746

A list of the B.C. adult literacy cost-shared projects funded for 1994/95 is now available. The 39 projects represent interest areas such as: corrections, forest workers, curriculum development, intergenerational literacy, and learner activities. Copies of the list, which includes a brief description of each project, and a contact name, are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Phone 1-800-663-1293. ☐

UVIC literacy course planned for Lower Mainland

The University of Victoria is planning to offer a course on "Teaching Literacy Skills to Adults" in the Lower Mainland this winter. The course is part of the Certificate in Continuing Education (CACE) program.

The CACE program is designed for professionals working in adult education who plan, administer or promote programs for adults; and train, teach or do staff development for adults.

This course, however, is open to any interested practitioners --

not only to those already in the CACE program.

The course will be offered, subject to minimum enrollment, over four weekends, beginning in February and ending in May, 1995.

For further information, contact:

Diane Anderson, Program Coordinator
Continuing Studies in Education
University of Victoria
P.O. Box 3010
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3N4

Phone: 721-6571
Fax: 721-6603 ☐

Job Opportunity

A research/consultant is required for a two month project to conduct a needs assessment and develop recommendations and a model for a Provincial Literacy Resource Centre.

The requirements include:

- ❖ excellent written and oral communication skills
- ❖ strategic and operational planning skills
- ❖ the ability to work independently
- ❖ knowledge of computer networking technology

Knowledge of the literacy field, and library services and organizations is an asset.

The project is funded through the 1994/95 B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

Proposals and background information should be submitted in writing by November 29, 1994 to:

Literacy B.C.
1122 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Fax: 687-5076

NEW RESOURCES

The Book Circle for Adult New Readers

This 20-page soft-cover publication is a manual for forming a Book Circle of adult literacy students. It is based on the experience of a pilot Book Circle in Prince George, a 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared project by the College of New Caledonia and the Prince George Public Library.

A Book Circle is an informal gathering, facilitated by an instructor, in which adults can read together and discuss and evaluate what they read in a social setting. The Prince George Book Circle was designed to fill a perceived gap in literacy programming for adults who were interested in using and developing their literacy skills but did not want to attend regular college programs.

The manual, prepared by facilitator Marina Tobin, describes the process of recruiting and interviewing prospective participants; the logistics of accommodating the scheduling, child-care, transportation and other needs of participants; and the literacy activities undertaken by the Book Circle.

Copies of the report are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Literacy and Consumerism - An Inquiry

Let's Go Shopping

These two publications are the products of a project designed to identify and alleviate the difficulties adults with low reading and numeracy skills experience with printed matter while shopping for groceries.

The project was funded by the 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared program and sponsored by East Kootenay Community College (EKCC) and School District #3 (Kimberley). Six grocery stores in Cranbrook and Kimberley also participated in the project as community partners.

The project report, *Literacy and Consumerism - An Inquiry*, describes the research process to identify problem areas in grocery stores for adults with low literacy skills. Students from the fundamental ABE program at EKCC in Cranbrook, as well as store employees, participated in the research.

Some of the problems identified are: using metric terms; using unit pricing to make price comparisons; identifying generic brands that have no pictures or symbols; writing cheques; and reading the small print on shelf labels.

Let's Go Shopping is a small handbook developed by the project as a guide for low literacy adults while shopping. The handbook is humorously illustrated with cartoons and contains: descriptions of metric terms; examples of how to calculate the unit price of an item; a guide to overhead aisle signs; and a variety of helpful hints and shopping tips.

Copies of both publications are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Analysis of Integrated Learning Systems and Their Use in Adult Basic Education Programs in British Columbia

This report provides an independent descriptive analysis of six of the computer learning systems currently in use in adult basic education programs in B.C.

The report was prepared by Martin Buck of Camosun College and Victoria researcher and writer Audrey Thomas, for the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour and the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development.

The term "ILS" (Integrated Learning System) is used to

continued on page 6

"Resources" from page 5 report on the project's findings. An ILS is defined as a "software/hardware system that offers instructional materials under the umbrella of a management system that monitors and reports on student performance."

The six systems analyzed are:

- ❖ Autoskill
- ❖ Computer Curriculum Corporation
- ❖ Jostens INVEST
- ❖ Pathfinder
- ❖ Principle of the Alphabet Literacy System (PALS)
- ❖ Programmed Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations (PLATO)

The major focus of the project was to survey the users of the systems and analyze their experiences. To do this, the project team developed instruments for interviewing both instructors and students who had used or were currently using one of the six systems, and conducted site visits in school districts, colleges, and community sites throughout the province.

Included in the report is *Guidelines for the Acquisition of Computer-Based Adult Literacy Systems*, published by the National Literacy Secretariat. Intended to assist potential purchasers, it identifies seven areas which influence

decision-making such as cost, installing and licensing; flexibility; and documentation and support.

The report is available from:

Curriculum Publications
Marketing Department
Open Learning Agency
4355 Mathissi Place
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 4S8

Phone: 1-800-663-1653

Fax: 431-3381

Order number: VA0152

Literacy Materials Bulletin, Fall 1994

The fall 1994 edition of the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* features reviews of a variety of recommended materials on topics such as health care, learning disabilities, and family literacy.

The *Bulletin* is the cooperative effort of a 10-member committee formed in 1989 to review and field-test literacy materials. The committee consists of instructors from fundamental level adult literacy programs around B.C., and two resource members.

Copies of the current *Bulletin*, as well as the previous nine issues, are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

For more information on the *Bulletin*, contact:

Laurie Gould, Chair
Literacy Materials Committee
c/o Basic Education Department
Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus
1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 1Y8

Phone: 871-7364

Fax: 871-7100

1994 Learner Events

The 1994 *Learners Talking to Learners*, a summary of B.C.'s adult literacy learner events under the literacy cost-shared program during 1994, has been published.

The 91-page compendium of reports written by learners describes more than 30 events. These include, among others, field trips, career days, the writing and production of an original play, and the creation of a series of television programs about literacy.

This year's edition features a new cover design by Janet Rankin, an ABE student at East Kootenay Community College in Cranbrook. There is also a new section, Advice from Learners, to assist learner groups in planning their events this year.

Copies of the report are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293. □